DC™

AMBUSH BUG YEAR NONE

7 OF 6
DEC'09

GIFFEN
FLEMING
MILGROM
BALTAZAR
FRANCO

DCCOMICS.COM

PLOTTED AND PARTIALLY PENCILLED BY **KEITH GIFFEN** WHO UNLIKE THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD, OBVIOUSLY COULDN'T.

WRITTEN, IN PART, BY **ROBERT LOREN FLEMING** WHO THINKS THIS WHOLE THING SMACKS OF DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN.

DRAWN, FOR THE MOST PART, BY **BALTAZAR** AND **FRANCO** WHO FOOLISHLY THOUGHT THAT EISNER WIN WOULD ACTUALLY COUNT FOR SOMETHING.

INKED, AGAIN IN PART, BY **AL MILGROM** WHO OFFERED THE LETTERER TWENTY BUCKS TO DROP HIS NAME FROM THE CREDITS.

LETTERED BY **PAT BROSSEAU** WHO TOOK THE TWENTY THEN FIGURED, SCREW IT, I CAN TAKE MILGROM IN A FIGHT IF IT COMES TO THAT.

COLORED BY **GUY MAJOR,** WHOSE NAME IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO AN ALIAS THAT HE JUST MIGHT WALK AWAY FROM THIS WITH HIS CAREER INTACT.

COVER BY **KEITH GIFFEN** (WHO DID IT ON THE FLY). AND SPECIAL THANKS TO **DARWYN COOKE** WHO REALLY IS WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO AMBUSH BUG #6.

ASSISTANT EDITED BY **SIMONA MARTORE,** WHO, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, REALLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

EDITED BY **DAN DIDIO** WHO TOLD US THAT IF WE DISSED HIM IN THE CREDIT BOX WE'D FIND OUT, FIRST HAND, WHAT HAPPENED THOSE DRIFTERS WHO DISAPPEARED A FEW MONTHS AGO.

A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO **JANN JONES** IF ONLY BECAUSE THERE'S NO REASON SHE SHOULD WALK AWAY FROM THIS UNSCATHED.

OH, AND **IAN SATTLER'S** A REDSKINS FAN. KINDA MAKES IT HARD TO DUMP ON HIM, Y'KNOW? I MEAN, WE'RE NOT THAT HEARTLESS.

*NOT EXACTLY, BUT PRETTY DAMN CLOSE!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO

AMBUSH BUG YEAR NONE #6?

SPECIAL REPORT

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO

AMBUSH BUG YEAR NONE #6?

PART TWO

THE DCU. GOTHAM CITY. I KNOW IT'S A MADE-UP CITY BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS WORK AROUND HERE.

MY NAME'S NOT IMPORTANT. ANCILLARY CHARACTERS ARE A DIME A DOZEN. I'M A REPORTER. I WORK THE SEAMY SIDE OF THE CITY BEAT. THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.

MISSING PERSONS ARE A BIG PART OF WHAT I DO, IF ONLY FOR ONE ISSUE. TODAY'S CONTESTANT, ONE IRWIN SCHWAB A.K.A. AMBUSH BUG. THAT'S RIGHT, I DREW THE SHORT STRAW.

DISAPPEARS INTO THIN INK AFTER LANDING A SIX-ISSUE MINISERIES. FIVE ISSUES IN AND POOF!

IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE THE FIFTH ISSUE HIT THE SHOPS, AND THE FANS ARE BEGINNING TO GET ANTSY.

BOTH OF THEM.

DELETED CONCEPTS Package Goods

I THINK THERE'S A STORY HERE. I HOPE THERE'S A STORY HERE OTHERWISE IT'S ONE YEAR LATER ALL OVER AGAIN.

COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS GO MISSING EVERY DAY. MOST OF THEM TURN UP HERE SOONER OR LATER.

HIDING FROM GRANT MORRISON FOR THE MOST PART. CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM.

PRESS

DC

JONNI DC. CONTINUITY COP. SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T HAVE THE SENSE TO STAY DEAD. SOME AREN'T GIVEN A CHOICE.

HER LOOK SMACKS OF BLACKEST NIGHT CROSSOVER. WITH ANY LUCK I'LL DODGE THAT BULLET.

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
UP YOURS.
POINTS FOR TRYING?
AMBUSH BUG DIDN'T KILL HIMSELF, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW.
WHY WOULD HE KILL HIMSELF?
SAME REASON MOST OF THE OTHERS DID. THE TRIGGER TWINS, ITTY, GREG RUCKA...
BLACKEST NIGHT?
ONE LAST SHOT AT RELEVANCE. THE BUG, HE WASN'T ALL THAT BIG ON RELEVANCE.
AND YOU?
HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
WIKIPEDIA.
I'M *NOT* GAY.
AMBUSH BUG.
HE MIGHT BE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
I KNOW YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME. NO ONE CARES.
LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF THAT.
OPEN YOUR EYES AND SMELL THE COFFEE. THEY'RE JUST STATTING OUR IMAGES IN. THIS SNIPE HUNT OF YOURS ISN'T EVEN WORTH A FULL PAGE DONE UP ORIGINAL.
SHE HAD A POINT.

JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW.
ALL OF IT?
IT'S A START.
THE EARTH WAS FORMED SOMEWHERE AROUND FIVE BILLION YEARS AGO--
OPEN YOUR EYES AND SMELL THE COFFEE?
DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THIS OR NOT?
SORRY.
BECAUSE I'M TRYING TO SALVAGE AS MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL ART HERE AS I CAN--
I SAID I WAS SORRY.
NOW LOOK WHAT YOU DID! I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE WHOLE EARTH COOLING THING AND THE DAMN FISH IS ALREADY CRAWLING UP ONTO LAND!
WHAT? DID I BLOW MY CUE?
GET BACK IN THE WATER, DAMMIT!
SIGH... MY TURN TO BE SORRY.
--IT'S OKAY. TAKE YOUR TIME.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THESE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN LIKE.
JUST RELAX.
OKAY. OKAY. SO THEN THE EARTH COO--
NOW?

IT GOT UGLY.

BUT DELICIOUS. THE FILLET WAS A LITTLE TOO BONY FOR MY TASTE, BUT A FREE MEAL'S A FREE MEAL.

I COME AWAY WITH TWO NAMES AND A HANDFUL OF XEROXES SHE CLAIMS SHE LIBERATED FROM A MIDTOWN DUMPSTER OUT BACK OF 1700 BROADWAY.

DC COMICS. THIS JUST GOT INTERESTING.

PLEASE LET THIS HAVE GOTTEN INTERESTING.

24 HOUR COPIES

I LEAD OFF WITH RORY CARMICHAEL. FORMER DC COMICS INTERN. RORY CARMICHAEL, A.K.A. COPY BOY.

YOU'RE DODGING THE QUESTION.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?

SOMETHING THAT PROPELS THE NARRATIVE WOULD BE NICE.

FLEMING NEVER CARED ABOUT PROPELLING THE NARRATIVE, WHY SHOULD I?

IS THAT YOUR WORK?

YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PAGES I HAD TO XEROX ON AN AVERAGE DAY?

HUMOR ME.

CRISIS IN THE YEAR NONE!

WELCOME, READERS, TO THE UNIVERSE-FORMING EVENT KNOWN AS THE **BIG BANG**...

...OR AS IT'S CALLED IN THE DC UNIVERSE, THE BIG **BIFF! BAM! POW!**

MUCH **PUNCHIER.**

IN TRUE BIBLICAL FASHION, THE DCU WAS CREATED IN **SIX PANELS**, AND IN THE SEVENTH PANEL...UHH...

...WELL, WE'RE ON A SIX-PANEL GRID, SO **YOU** DO THE MATH!

SPEAKING OF WHICH, SUPER-POWERED CHARACTERS SOON SPRANG FORTH, WERE FRUITFUL AND **MULTIPLIED!**

7X9=63!

GADZOOKS! I CAN BREATHE AIR *AND* CRUNCH NUMBERS!

AND I CAN *SPEAK!*

AND I KNOW *ENGLISH!*

ALL OF THIS LED BRIEFLY TO A **STONE-AGE** VERSION OF THE DCU...

LOOK, UP IN THE *SKY!*

IT'S A *PTERODACTYL!*

IT'S A *MASTODON!*

...WHICH WAS MERCIFULLY **WIPED OUT** BY THE VERY FIRST COMPANYWIDE CROSSOVER EVENT...

...ENTITLED SIMPLY **FIRST CRISIS.**

IT'S HARD TO GAUGE SALES ON THAT SERIES, SINCE THERE WERE NO **COMIC SHOPS** THEN...OR HUMAN BEINGS.

COMIC BOOK FANS CAME ALONG MUCH, MUCH LATER...

HATE STUPID AMBUSH BUG COMIC!

MAKES FUN OF US!

TREATS US LIKE DOPES AND SLOBS!

SLURRRP

YEAH! WHY IT PORTRAY US AS KNUCKLE-DRAGGERS?

THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION!

DO YOU HAVE NINETEEN MORE?

HUH?!

WHAT THAT THING IS?

I AM THE DANOLITH!

I'M HERE TO STIMULATE YOUR BRAINS BY ANSWERING ANY TWENTY QUESTIONS OF YOUR CHOOSING!

OOH, OOH!

ANY PLANS FOR AQUAMAN??

I FAVOR THE ONE WITH THE HOOK FOR A HAND...

...IT KEEPS THOSE DARNED FISH IN LINE, HEH!

WHO DOESN'T LOVE BIRDS OF PREY?

SHOW OF HANDS!

IS BRUCE WAYNE BEING BATMAN ONE OF THE IMMUTABLE LAWS OF THE DCU?

'CAUSE IF NOT, THEN THE COLOR OF MY UNDERWEAR IS DUE TO BECOME APPALLINGLY MUTABLE!

JUST LISTEN AND LEARN! DC IS NO LONGER THE EVER CONFUSING DETECTIVE COMICS COMICS, IT NOW STANDS FOR DANDY COMICS!

AND THIS NEW DC WILL BE BUILT WITH TODAY'S CONSUMER IN MIND.

AND THEN, IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TOSS A BONE INTO THE AIR...

THWOOM

HA! DEATH AND DESTRUCTION! THE PERFECT WAY TO GET THINGS STARTED.

YOU'LL BECOME A BAT, A CONTINUITY-FREE BAT! NO MORE BAT-MITES, BATUSI, OR BAT NIPPLE SUITS.

WE FOCUS-TESTED THE ALWAYS INFLUENTIAL BAYWATCH/ ROCK OF LOVE CROWD AND YOU CAN STAY THE WAY YOU ARE AND REMAIN A *MINOR CHARACTER* WHO'S SELDOM SEEN...

Hooter-Sina
Medical Cente

...OR YOU CAN UNDERGO THE PROCEDURE AND BE FEATURED ON *HUNDREDS OF COVERS*...

HEY, *WAIT* A MINUTE!

I DON'T REMEMBER *ANY OF THIS STUFF* HAPPENING THIS WAY!

BANJAXIS
"WE NEVER SWUNG INTO ACTION"

IT SAYS HERE THAT WONDER WOMAN WAS CREATED FROM ONE OF *DANDY'S RIBS!*

WHA-AT?!?

ARE YOU *QUESTIONING* THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF DCOMICS?

History of DCU

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THE GUYS WHO SET OUT TO BUILD A UNIVERSE BY REACHING FOR THE STARS BY PANDERING TO THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR?

EVERYTHING'S DANDY

We stock the new DComics Action Figures

Preorder Limited Edition DComics Sneakers here!

THIS IS ALL *MY* FAULT!

I NEVER SAW IT *COMING!*

WHEN MY OLD FRAT BROTHER ASKED ME HOW TO *CLIMB INSIDE COMIC BOOKS*...

...I THOUGHT HE JUST WANTED TO *SHIRK RESPONSIBILITY* AND AVOID REAL-LIFE CONSEQUENCES...

...LIKE *ME!*

I GUESS I SHOULD'VE SUSPECTED SOMETHING RIGHT FROM THE START, WHEN I WAS THE *ONLY GUEST* AT THE DC COMPANY RETREAT...

THIS IS *SPOOKY*...

I WONDER IF I GOT MY *DATES* MIXED UP?

I AM THE *GREAT AND POWERFUL DAN,* IRWIN SCHWAB!

HAVE YOU DECIDED TO *AGREE TO THE TERMS* OF MY PROPOSITION??

HA! STILL WITH THE *JUDY GARLAND FETISH,* HUH, DANDY?

WOW, THIS IS *WAY* MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN THOSE RUBY SLIPPERS YOU USED TO WEAR AROUND CAMPUS!

I BET YOU DON'T GET *BEAT UP* AS MUCH ANYMORE, EITHER!

WILL YOU HELP ME *TO CLIMB INTO THE COMIC BOOKS* OR NOT??

I DUNNO.

I'M STILL *THINKING IT OVER...*

OKAY, OKAY! I'LL EXPAND YOUR COMEBACK SERIES FROM FOUR ISSUES TO SEVEN!

BUT IF YOU SCREW THIS UP, I'M DROPPING ISSUE SIX!

YIPPEE!

DON'T *DO* IT, IRWIN!

IT'S NOT WORTH COMPROMISING YOUR INTEGRITY FOR THE FLEETING FAME OF A *FEW PAMPHLETS!*

GIFFEN'S SALES

I GOT JUST ONE WORD FOR YOU, BABY: *CHOPS!*

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO *DINE OUT* ON THIS COMEBACK FOR THE BETTER PART OF A YEAR!

YOU DRIVE A *HARD BARGAIN,* IRWIN, BUT IT'S AGREED...

...YOUR DINNER PLAN WILL INCLUDE AN *UNLIMITED DESSERT CART!*

SWEET!

BOB, WHAT ARE YOU DOING??

AS THE FORMER DIALOGUER OF AMBUSH BUG, I WAS OFFERED THE SAME DEAL AS IRWIN IN EXCHANGE FOR MY **COOPERATION** WITH THE SCHEME.

MY ONE REGRET IS THAT I BECAME SO HOOKED ON THE BLACK FOREST CAKE THAT I NEVER SAMPLED THE **ECLAIRS.**

IT WAS UP TO ME TO TOSS THE BUG OUT OF THE WINDOW AT THE **EXACT MOMENT** DAN APPEARED ON THE SIDEWALK BELOW..

...AND IRWIN WAS INSTRUCTED TO **TELEPORT AWAY** JUST BEFORE HE REACHED STREET LEVEL.

POP!

SO FAR, SO GOOD!

NOW I'VE JUST GOTTA TAKE *RIP HUNTER'S TIME MACHINE* INTO THE FUTURE...

...AND STEAL DAN'S BODY FROM THE MORTUARY RIGHT AFTER HE DIES OF *OLD AGE!*

BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT DAN'S FUTURE SELF WASN'T THE ONLY PART OF THE PLAN THAT WAS DEAD...

hh-keh-keh-keh-keh-keh-keh
chhh-keh-keh-keh-keh-keh-keh

I...CANNOT... FREAKIN'... *BELIEVE* THIS!

YOU WANT SOME MORE *PAELLA,* MEESTER OMBOOSH?

NO THANKS, GINA, I'VE GOTTA *AMSCRAY* NOW!

DID YOU FIND THE *PROBLEM,* SID?

IT WAS THE *TIMER.*

*ONE QUICK TRIP TO THE **FUTURE** LATER...*

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT THIS IS *DANDY'S* FUNERAL!

OTHERWISE THERE MIGHT BE *MOURNERS* IN MY WAY!

Eterna Rest Mortua

C-C-C- CREMATED!

RACING BACK TO THE TIME MACHINE WITH DAN'S ASHES, THE BUG TRAVELLED FORWARD TO THE WORLD OF OMAC!

OF COURSE, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT EASIER JUST TO GO BACK A FEW HOURS AND RETRIEVE THE BODY BEFORE IT WAS CREMATED...

THIS IS A COMIC BOOK STORY, FLEM!

WE HAVE TO GENERATE TENSION OR THE READERS WILL LOSE INTEREST!

RIIIGHT... TENSION.

I'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG.

WHY'D YOU RECONSTITUTE HIM ENCASED IN CEMENT??

WE ALWAYS SHIP 'EM THIS WAY!

JUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ON UNPACKING AND ASSEMBLY ON THE PULL-UP SCREEN...

...AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T GET HIM WET!

OF COURSE, DAN'S CORPSE NEEDED TO BE DRESSED IN THE RIGHT CLOTHES TO MAKE THE SWITCH...

...AND I'LL TAKE THAT BLACK LACE BRA AND THE MATCHING PANTIES.

GOTTA STAY AUTHENTIC!

CAP'S SPORTSWEAR

AND IN THE SAME SPLIT-SECOND AT WHICH HE HAD TELEPORTED AWAY, THE BUG RETURNED...

HERE I COME, DANDY!

GET READY, 'CAUSE I'M GONNA POP YOU DIRECTLY INTO THE COMICS WITH ME!

BUT NOW I WONDER WHETHER I MADE A FATAL MISTAKE THAT DAY!

I NEED ADVICE FROM SOMEONE WITH THE PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND UNSHAKABLE MORAL FIBER TO FACE DOWN THIS TERRIBLE MENACE I'VE FOOLISHLY UNLEASHED!

IN SHORT, THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR--

YEAH. THOSE ARE MINE. DON'T REMEMBER NO LAME FISH GAG, THOUGH.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THEY WERE TAMPERED WITH?

WELL, D'UH! HE NEVER COULD LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

DANDY?

PRESS

LOOK, MAN, I'M NOT LOOKING FOR NO TROUBLE. I GOT OUT. NO WAY YOU'RE DRAGGING ME BACK IN.

RELAX, KID. AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S JUST COMIC BOOKS.

YEAH? TELL *HIM* THAT.

24 HOUR COPIES

HIM BEING DANDY, A.K.A. DAN DIDIO, HIGH MUCK OF THE COMPANY PUBLISHING THIS DRIVEL.

THE SAME COMPANY HIT ME UP FOR THIS GIG BEFORE THE CREATIVE TEAM SCORED AN EISNER.

NOT THAT THE EISNER WOULD'VE CHANGED MUCH. EISNERS ARE A LOT LIKE OSCARS. ONCE YOU WIN ONE, YOU NEVER SEE A DECENT GIG AGAIN.

WAY TO HAMMER THE POINT HOME, "DANDY."

TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT THE NEXT CONTESTANT HAS TO SAY.

WITH ANY BIT OF LUCK I CAN WRAP THIS UP WITH ENOUGH SPACE LEFT OVER FOR ONE OF THOSE ANNOYING MITSU BISHI INTERLUDES.

...WHOLE DAMN THING DEVOLVED INTO A CHEAPJACK MATRIX RIFF. THE BUG DECIDED HE'D HAD ENOUGH, OPTED FOR A ONE-ON-ONE FACE-OFF.

THINGS'D GOTTEN THAT BAD?

HELL YEAH. THE BOOK WAS DAMN NEAR INCOMPREHENSIBLE AT THAT POINT.

WALK ME THROUGH IT.

SO YOU DECIDED TO STAND UP AND FACE ME LIKE A *MAN*, EH, IRWIN?

YES, AND I'M WEARING MY... *TURTLENECK SWEATER*, DANDY.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I WEAR MY...*TURTLENECK SWEATER!*

HAHAHA

THE *KRAZY GLUE!*

THAT WAS *CLASSIC!*

I GAVE YOU HELL *THEN*, AND I'M GONNA GIVE YOU HELL NOW!

GET READY FOR THE TONGUE-LASHING OF YOUR *LIFE*, DANDY!

NOT

THIS

TIME!

UHH...WATCH OUT *BEHIND* YOU, DANDY!

THAT LITTLE FAIRY IS PACKING A *CHAIN-SAW!*

WHA-AT?!

VRUM-VRUM-VZZZZZZZZ

HUZZAH!

VZZZZ-ZAK-ZAK

SUGAR-COATED GORE-WHAMMYS ARE A *COMPLETE PART* OF ANY NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST!

SAY! THEY TASTE LIKE... *VICTORY!*

HOW COME THE GOO INSIDE 'EM IS *MOVING?*

THEY'RE THE *ACTIVE SNACK* FOR KIDS ON THE GO!

OKAY???

BUY SOME *TODAY!*

THEY'RE THE *WHAMMYEST!*

NOW WITH MORE GORE!

YOU'RE SERIOUS? A TWINKIE RIFF?

GUESS SOMEONE THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY. NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE, Y'KNOW?

6 6 5 5 4 4

I'M LEARNING.

YOU SAID THAT BY THEN DANDY'D PRETTY MUCH TAKEN OVER THE BOOK?

YEAH. HE WAS *EVERYWHERE.* THE BUG OFFERED A HAND; HE TOOK THE ARM UP TO THE SHOULDER.

YOU'D THINK WITH THAT KIND OF EXPOSURE, HE'D HAVE WANTED THE BOOK TO COME OUT ON TIME... OR AS CLOSE TO ON TIME AS DC IS CAPABLE.

YOU'D THINK.

GO ON.

YOU KNOW AN AWFUL LOT FOR A GUY BAGGING GROCERIES.

LET'S NOT GO THERE.

GO ON.

*THE TIMID BIZARRO TOLD ME THAT DIDIO HAD HIRED A TEAM OF **GLOBE-TROTTING ADVENTURERS** TO RETURN THE BLUE PENCIL TO ITS ORIGINAL MYSTICAL LOCATION FOR **RECHARGING**...*

*...AND THAT IT WAS UP TO ME TO LOCATE THE JUNGLE STRONGHOLD AND **EXTRICATE** THE ALL-POWERFUL ARTIFACT...*

*...FROM A SERIES OF **FRESHLY-LAID BOOBY TRAPS!***

YAHOO!

I'M THE MAN!

FOR THOSE KEEPING TRACK AT HOME, THE SCORE IS BUG WON, *GLOBETROTTERS* ZERO!

FONK

FONK

FONK

MAJOR SPOILER HERE, OF THE 27TH BRIGADE GRENADIERS.

THINGS LOOKED BLEAK FOR MY REGIMENT WHEN THAT BLASTED TOMB ROBBER STOLE OUR THUNDER!

TOUCH AND GO, NIP AND TUCK, BUT FORTUNATELY ALL OF THAT HOOP ACTION STIRRED UP A NEARBY SCHOOL OF PIRANHA FISH!

ATTACKED THE CHAP, ATE HIM!

GOOD SHOW, WHAT?

I TRIED TO CALL FOR HELP WITH THE SIGNAL WATCH BIZARRO SUPERDAN GAVE ME...

ZEEE

OF COURSE, ONCE DAN GETS BACK TO REALITY, HE'LL BE *SO MAD* AT ME...

...THAT I'LL PROBABLY *NEVER* BE SEEN IN COMIC BOOKS AGAIN!

HE DIDN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.

I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND.

ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUG?

ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT. THE PAPER BAG.

BAGS. LIKE I SAID, HE WAS EVERYWHERE.

AND SOMEONE OBJECTED.

DC DOESN'T STAND FOR DANDY COMICS Y'KNOW. CORPORATE CAUGHT WIND. IT WASN'T PRETTY. THE WHOLE BAG THING. IT WAS HIS IDEA.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

LOOK, MAN, I'M JUST A FAN, Y'KNOW? THEY PROMISED ME A CREDIT IN THE BOOK. IF I'D KNOWN...

SURE, KID. SURE.

ANOTHER FAN LOOKING TO MAKE GOOD. THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY IS LITTERED WITH THEIR CORPSES.

WHAT'S DISTURBING IS HOW MUCH HE KNEW.

PAGE EIGHTEEN AND I'M STILL NO CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN I WAS ON PAGE TWO.

TIME TO HIT UP THE SOURCE. AND I'M NOT TALKING NEW GODS, NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE MIGHT BELIEVE THAT TO BE THE CASE.

IT'S...

MITSU BISHI'S HELP MURDER POLICE SUPER FUN ACTION TIME!

URP!

THAT LAST GORE-WHAMMY DIDN'T AGREE WITH THIS ONE'S HUMBLE *DIGESTIVE SYSTEM!*

LET'S GO, ROBIN!

WE'RE *NEEDED.*

WAIIIIT!

WHY IS THIS ONE DRESSED IN A COSTUME OF SO MANY *BRIGHT COLORS?!?*

TO DRAW FIRE, OF COURSE.

POOM! RAT-A-T-A-T PICHOW

GLEEP!

AND WHY, PLEASE, NO *KEVLAR ARMOR?*

OH, THAT WOULD JUST *WEIGH YOU DOWN!*

SAYONARA, FRYING PAN!

CATCH ME..

...AT THE *COMEDY IMPROV...*

...IN *CLEVELAND...*

...APRIL *12-14!*

KAKPOW

POW POW POW

NOT GOOD. THAT LITTLE INTERLUDE ATE UP PAGE SPACE I'M GOING TO NEED IF I HAVE A BEGGAR'S CHANCE OF MAKING ANY SENSE OUT OF ALL THIS.

DELIBERATE? I'M BEGINNING TO THINK SO.

IN HINDSIGHT, I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE COME HERE FIRST.

NOT WITH GIFFEN PLOTTING THE BOOK.

NOT DAN

TOUCHÉ.

SO, IS IT TRUE? ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY?

MISTAKES WERE MADE.

APPROVING THE MINISERIES IN THE FIRST PLACE?

PRESS

UNDERESTIMATING THE BUG'S ATTACHMENT TO CERTAIN...DATED DC CONCEPTS.

NOT DAN

COHESIVE PLOT LINES? DEADLINES? AM I GETTING HOT?

I'D WATCH THAT. THAT EISNER WILL ONLY GET YOU SO FAR.

TELL ME A STORY, DANDY. TELL ME HOW IT ALL WENT WRONG.

THE PAPER BAGS WERE A BIG PART OF IT. NO EYE-HOLES. I WAS LEGION, AND NOT THE GOOD ONE, BUT...

NONE ARE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE?

NOT WHERE I WAS GOING, BUT... SURE. FINDING THE BUG WAS EASY, EYEHOLES NOTWITHSTANDING...

NOT DAN

MARCO.

SIGH... POLO.

REASONING WITH HIM? MIGHT AS WELL TRY CLIMBING A FENCE LEANING TOWARD YOU. OR KISSING A GIRL LEANING AWAY FROM YOU. OR--

I GET IT.

HE DIDN'T.

HE COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT HIS DCU WAS NO LONGER VALID. SILLY JUST WON'T CUT IT IN TODAY'S MARKET.

HE HAD THAT DAMNED BLUE PENCIL THING GIFFEN'D COME UP WITH IN ISSUE NUMBER--

HE... ERASED ME FROM DC CONTINUITY.

NOOOOOO

FF-FWIT!

THEN HOW ARE YOU HERE TALKING TO ME?

I'VE NEVER BEEN ALL THAT BIG ON CONTINUITY.

SO IT'S BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL?

DO I DETECT A NOTE OF SARCASM?

COULD BE.

YOU CAN GO NOW.

WHAT ABOUT THE BUG?

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

NOT DAN

I GUESS THAT JUST ABOUT SUMS THINGS UP.

I GUESS SOME THINGS AREN'T MEANT TO BE KNOWN. HOW WOMEN CAN FIGHT IN HEELS, WHY HEROES WEAR THEIR UNDERPANTS ON THE OUTSIDE... GUESS THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS PLAY OUT IN THE DCU.

IT'S ALL CHINATOWN.

WELL, AT LEAST HE DIDN'T *KILL* ME...

STILL, NO SEVEN-ISSUE SERIES IS WORTH *THIS KIND* OF HUMILIATION!

I SHOULD'VE HELD OUT FOR *EIGHT*...

...?

THIS *ISN'T* SO BAD, REALLY.

DCU PERPETUAL CRISIS IN PROGRESS NO ADMITTANCE

I'VE BEEN BANISHED FROM THE DC UNIVERSE BEFORE, AND I *ALWAYS* GOT BACK IN EVENTUALLY...

PLUS, THIS TIME I GOT MY OWN *HOME VERSION* OF THE DCU GAME, SO I CAN PLAY ALONG FROM THE COMFORT OF MY LIVING ROOM.

DCU

NOT DAN

WAIT A MINUTE.

"*KILL AND MAIM* YOUR FAVORITE DC CHARACTERS IN NEW AND EXCITING WAYS"?

WHAT KIND OF A GAME *IS* THIS??

OH WELL, WHAT GOES ON IN THE DCU ISN'T *MY CONCERN* ANYMORE.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, GET MYSELF KILLED FOR A UNIVERSE THAT'S ALWAYS TREATED ME LIKE A *SECOND-CLASS CITIZEN?*

I WON'T EVEN BE *MISSED!*

THEY CAN ALL *MASSACRE* EACH OTHER, FOR ALL I CARE!

END